

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

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TAGS: OEXC, UR

SUBJECT: EXCHANGE OF US-SOVIET ARTISTS

REF: MOSCOW 11375

1. AS EMBASSY AWARE, MAY 14 LETTER FROM UNION OF ARTISTS (SALAKHOV) TO NATIONAL AIR AND SPACE MUSEUM (NASM) DIRECTOR COLLINS REFERRED TO SOVIET NOMINEES UNDER ARTIST EXCHANGE (KOROLEV AND VOLODIN) ONLY AS SECRETARIES OF BOARD OF ADMINISTRATION OF USSR UNION OF ARTISTS. REQUEST EMBASSY CONFIRM THAT BOTH ARE ARTISTS AS WELL. WE HAVE RESERVED SEPT 7-28 PERIOD WITH PROGRAMMING AGENCY.

2. UNION OF ARTISTS SHOULD UNDERSTAND THAT OVERALL ITINERARY FOR TWO SOVIET ARTISTS WILL BE ARRANGED BY DEPT THROUGH PROGRAMMING AGENCY, WITH NASM RESPONSIBLE ONLY FOR PROGRAM RELATING TO SPACE ART EXHIBIT IN WASHINGTON, DC. COLLINS' REPLY TO SALAKHOV LETTER WILL ADVISE UNION TO COMMUNICATE DIRECTLY WITH EMBASSY ON ALL MATTERS RELATING TO ARTISTS' EXCHANGE (WILL POUCH LETTER TO EMBASSY FOR TRANSMITTAL TO UNCLASSIFIED

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UNION OF ARTISTS).

3. WE NEED BIO INFO ON SOVIET NOMINEES, INCLUDING ASSESSMENT OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE ABILITY, AND STATEMENT OF THEIR INTERESTS IN US. THIS INFO NEEDED TO PLAN ITINERARY AND ARRANGE SUITABLE APPOINTMENTS. PLEASE ADVISE. IN THIS CONNECTION WE SUGGEST EMBASSY SEEK APPOINTMENT WITH KOROLEV AND VOLODIN TO DETERMINE THEIR INTERESTS FIRST HAND. THIS WOULD AVOID SITUATION WE EXPERIENCED WITH SOVIET JOURNALIST DELEGATION WHICH HAD DIFFERENT INTERESTS FROM THOSE CONVEYED TO EMBASSY BY UNION OF JOURNALISTS. WE AGAIN STRESS THAT OUR ABILITY TO ARRANGE SATISFACTORY PROGRAM IS DEPENDENT ON RECEIVING ACCURATE ADVANCE INFO ON DELEGATION'S INTERESTS. KISSINGER

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